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Michael Crye
International Council of Cruise Lines
J. Michael Crye, President
2112 Wilson Blvd., 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201

April 27, 2005

Dear Mr. Crye,

Enclosed is a copy of our the Cruise Ship Water Quality Report for Bar Harbor, ME. We found that water quality around ICCL ships visiting Bar Harbor in 2004 was good. The ship captains and crew of these ships were knowledgeable about Maine legislation and best practices in harbors. In addition, personnel aboard these ships were friendly and helpful with our efforts to engage citizens in monitoring Frenchman Bay.

I have also enclosed a proposal for a second year of monitoring. We would like to expand our area of sampling and engage a wider cross section of community members in going out in the Bay and seeing for themselves what is going on there. We would also like to invite Friends of Casco Bay to join us in our efforts to establish a citizen-based cruise ship monitoring protocol that can be used by others who have questions about the practices of visiting cruise ships. People in Bar Harbor were surprised to hear that we encountered few water quality issues last summer, none of them involving ICCL ships. It is important for people to make informed decisions about their harbors, and to take all of the facts into consideration. We are not an advocacy group. We engage people in meaningful environmental research and community education. This project is citizen science at its best.

We cannot take on another year of monitoring without support. We think that the ICCL will benefit from citizen monitoring because of your commitment to clean water and your role in the cruise industry. And Bar Harbor will benefit because citizens will be out on the water seeing all of the potential impacts on our bay and be able to direct their energies where they will be most effective.

Thank you for considering our proposal. I have included some local press on our monitoring efforts. I look forward to hearing from you soon. As you can see, we need to make decisions in May about the direction of this season's project.

Sincerely,

Jane E. Disney, Ph.D.
Executive Director

The MDI Water Quality Coalition engages citizens of all ages in preserving and improving the water quality of MDI through meaningful environmental research and community education.